## August 29, 2009 - Murtha Sees First Hand How Stimulus Money has Helped Local Clinic

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By Michael Aubele

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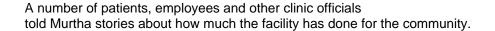
Mary Angel made the most of the brief chance she had yesterday to bend the ear of U.S. Rep. John Murtha.

While shaking hands with the Johnstown Democrat outside the Community Health Clinic in New Kensington, Angel pleaded with the congressman to offer more assistance to the Fourth Avenue medical facility where she gets her care.

The clinic received \$650,000 this year in federal stimulus money and will get an equal amount next year. Clinic officials asked Murtha to visit so they could show him how the money is being used and express their gratitude.

Angel figured it couldn't hurt to make a pitch for added





"This has been an absolute godsend for us," said Cheryl Duncan, 58, of Washington Township.

## Duncan

said she first sought care at the clinic several years ago when she lost her health insurance. She raved about the staff and quality of care she gets.

"I've never dealt with anyone here who wasn't pleasant," she said.

Julie Pater, 35, of Lower Burrell, shared her story about job loss and financial distress.

A former Alle-Kiski Learning Center instructor, Pater showed Murtha a recent Valley News Dispatch story that chronicled the learning center's financial problems.

She asked the congressman to do "anything he can" to help the learning center, the clinic and every other agency or service that relies on government funding to carry out its mission.

Pater said that when she lost her job, she lost her insurance and wouldn't be able to get medical care if it weren't for the clinic.

<sup>&</sup>quot;This place has been so wonderful," she said.